

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (previously presented) A network photograph service system, comprising:

at least one laboratory server installed in one of a plurality of laboratories, each laboratory having a picture printer and having an ability to communicate via a network; and

a center server connected to the laboratory server, said center server having a plurality of templates being registered therein, and said center server including a function of making the templates accessible on the network.

2. (previously presented) The network photograph service system of claim 1,

wherein said center server further includes a function of transmitting information to the laboratory server regarding one of the plurality of templates specified by a request to the laboratory server when a printing service process using the template is requested by a customer, and

wherein said laboratory server generates a processed print using the template, based on the transmitted information.

3. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 1, wherein said template is transmitted among said plurality of laboratories via the network.

4. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 2, wherein said template is transmitted among said plurality of laboratories via the network.

5. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of laboratories registers a new template to the center server when the new template is obtained at said one laboratory.


6. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of laboratories registers a new template to the center server when the new template is obtained at said one laboratory.

7. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of laboratories registers a new template to the center server when the new template is obtained at said one laboratory.

8. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 4, wherein each of said plurality of laboratories registers a

new template to the center server when the new template is obtained at said one laboratory.

9. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 1, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

 10. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 2, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

11. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 3, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

12. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 4, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

13. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 5, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

14. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 6, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

15. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 7, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

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16. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 8, wherein each laboratory stores high resolution image data of the template.

17. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 9, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

18. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 10, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

19. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 11, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

20. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 12, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

21. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 13, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

22. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 14, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

23. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 15, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

24. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 16, wherein said center server stores the template as low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than the data amount of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server.

25. (previously presented) A network photograph service system comprising:

a center server that stores a photograph taken by a customer as digital image data, the center server carrying out processing for providing services regarding the storage of the digital image data to the customer.

26. (original) The network photograph service system of claim 25, wherein said storage services is selected from a group of services comprising at least a service informing the customer via electronic mail that printing of the digital image data has been completed, a service informing the customer via electronic mail

that a storage period of the digital image data is about to expire, and a service extending the storage period of the digital image data by receiving electronic mail from the customer.

27. (previously presented) A network photographic service system, comprising:

at least one laboratory server installed in one of a plurality of laboratories, each laboratory having a picture printer and having an ability to communicate via a network; and

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a center server installed in a service center that receives a printing service order via the network, wherein the center server stores a picture recorded by a customer of each laboratory as digital image data,

makes the digital image data accessible on the network, selects one of the plurality of laboratories to output a print in response to order information transferred from the customer via the network,

provides the order printing service to the customer by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected laboratory,

creates a record of the processing instructed to each laboratory server by either transmitting the instruction

information, based on whether or not the digital image data has been transmitted between the laboratory servers, or based on the amount of digital image data transmitted, and

manages a transaction occurring between the laboratories, or between the center server and each laboratory, based on the created record.

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28. (original) The network photographic service system of claim 27, wherein management of the transaction includes calculating the cost to be paid to each laboratory for storing the digital image data, or the communication charge for the digital image data.

29. (original) The network photographic service system of claim 27, wherein the center server charges the customer based on a result related to the management of the transaction.

30. (original) The network photographic service system of claim 28, wherein the center server charges the customer based on a result related to the management of the transaction.

31. (previously presented) A method of ordering prints, comprising:

receiving an input of a print order related to image data;

creating order information representing the print order and specifying how the print is to be received; and

transmitting the order information via a network to a center server installed in a service center that receives the print order, said center server having an ability to communicate via the network with a laboratory server installed in at least one laboratory having a picture printer.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

performing print order processing based on the transmitted order information, said print order processing further including

selecting one laboratory from a plurality of laboratories to output a print based on how the print is to be received, which is specified in the order information; and

ordering a laboratory server to carry out processing for outputting a print by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected laboratory.

33. (previously presented) A print ordering apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an input of a print order related to image data;

creating means for creating order information representing the print order and for specifying how the print is to be received; and

transmission means for transmitting the order information via a network to a center server installed in a service center that receives the print order, said center server having an ability to communicate via a network with a laboratory server installed in at least one laboratory having a picture printer.

34. (original) The print ordering apparatus of claim 33, wherein the center server selects one laboratory from a plurality of laboratories to output a print based on how the print is to be received, which is specified in the order information; and wherein the center server orders a laboratory server to carry out processing for outputting a print by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected laboratory.

35. (previously presented) A computer program product

having a computer-readable medium having computer program logic stored thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to perform print order processing, said computer program logic, comprising:

instructing the reception of an input of a print order regarding image data;

creating order information representing the print order and specifying how the print is to be received; and

transmitting the order information via a network to a center server installed in a service center that receives the print order, said center server having an ability to communicate via a network with a laboratory server installed in at least one laboratory having a picture printer.

36. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 35, wherein said computer logic further instructs print order processing based on the transmitted order information, said print order processing including:

selecting a laboratory to output a print from among at least one laboratory based on how the print is to be received, specified by the order information; and

ordering a laboratory server to carry out processing for

outputting a print by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected laboratory.

37. (previously presented) A method of ordering prints, comprising:

accessing image data stored in a center server via a network;

receiving a printing service order transferred from a customer that is related to the image data;

creating order information representing the printing service order; and

transmitting the order information to the center server.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

accessing template image data stored in the server via the network; and

receiving a processing request from the customer for the image data and the template image data, wherein a processing procedure to effect the processing request is included in the order information.

39. (previously presented) A print order processing method, comprising:

analyzing whether or not a customer has an access right to image data based on order information transferred from the customer to a center server via a network, the order information representing a printing service order that is related to image data; and

carrying out processing for providing a printing service to the customer only when the access right is confirmed.

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40. (previously presented) A print order processing method, comprising:

selecting a laboratory to output a print from a plurality of selectable laboratories, each laboratory having a picture printer and having an ability to communicate via a network, the selection based on order information which is transferred from a customer to a center server via the network, the order information representing a printing service order related to image data used to output the print; and

ordering a laboratory server in the selected laboratory to carry out processing for providing the printing service by transmitting instruction information from the center server to the laboratory server.

41. (previously presented) A printing order apparatus, comprising:

access means for accessing image data stored in a center server via a network;

receiving means for receiving a printing service order transferred from a customer that is related to the image data;

creating means for creating order information representing the printing service order; and

transmitting means for transmitting the order information to the center server.

42. (original) The printing order apparatus of claim 41, wherein said access means further includes means for accessing template image data stored in the server,

wherein said input receiving means further includes means for receiving a processing request from the customer that is to be carried out on the image data and the template image data, and

wherein said order information creating means further includes means for including a processing procedure to effect the processing request along with the order information.

43. (previously presented) A printing order processing apparatus, comprising:

analyzing means for analyzing whether or not a customer has an access right to image data based on order information transferred from the customer to a center server via a network, the order information representing a printing service order that is related to image data; and

processing means for carrying out processing for providing a printing service to the customer only when the access right is confirmed.

44. (previously presented) A printing order processing apparatus, comprising:

selecting means for selecting a laboratory to output a print from a plurality of selectable laboratories, each laboratory having a picture printer and having an ability to communicate via a network, the selection based on order information which is transferred from a customer to a center server via the network, the order information representing a printing service order related to image data used to output the print; and

ordering means for ordering a laboratory server in the selected laboratory to carry out processing for providing the printing service by transmitting instruction information from the center server to the laboratory server.

45. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer program logic stored thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to perform print order processing, said computer program logic enabling the processor to:

receive an input of a printing service order related to image data;

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create order information representing the printing service order; and

transmit the order information via a network to a center server installed in a service center that receives the print order, said center server having an ability to communicate via the network with a laboratory server installed in at least one laboratory having a picture printer.

46. (original) The computer program product of claim 45, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

access template image data stored in the center server via the network;

receive a processing request from the customer that is to be carried out on the image data and the template image data,

wherein a processing procedure to effect the processing request is included in the order information.

47. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer program logic stored thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to perform print order processing, said computer program logic enabling the processor to:

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analyze whether or not a customer has an access right to image data based on order information transferred from the customer to a center server via a network, the order information representing a printing service order that is related to image data; and

carry out processing for providing a printing service to the customer only when the access right is confirmed.

48. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer program logic stored thereon for enabling a processor in a computer system to perform print order processing, said computer program logic enabling the processor to:

select a laboratory to output a print from a plurality of selectable laboratories, each laboratory having a picture printer and having an ability to communicate via a network, the selection based on order information which is transferred from a customer to a center server via the network, the order information representing a printing service order related to image data used to output the print; and

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order a laboratory server in the selected laboratory to carry out processing for providing the printing service by transmitting instruction information from the center server to the laboratory server.

49. (new) A network photograph service method, comprising:

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providing a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories, each including a laboratory server which store picture images as high resolution image data; and

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installing a single center server in a service center which receives a printing service via a network,

wherein the center server includes:

storing a picture recorded by a customer as digital image data,

making the digital image data accessible on the network,

selecting one photo-finishing laboratory out of said plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to output a print in response to order information transferred from the customer via the network, and


providing the printing service requested in the order by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected photo-finishing laboratory, thereby enabling the customer to select a desired photo-finishing laboratory out of a choice of a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to perform the printing service,

wherein the digital image data stored and made accessible by the center server is low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than that of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server of the selected photo-finishing laboratory, and

wherein the center server stores the digital image data in correlation with storage location information showing the laboratory server in which the image data is stored as high resolution image data, and selects, upon selection of the photo-finishing laboratory to output the image, the photo-finishing

laboratory in which the laboratory server stores the high resolution image data of the picture image whose print has been ordered, based on the storage location information.

50. (new) The network photograph service method as defined in claim 49, wherein the center server further includes:

 recording the processing instructed to each laboratory server by transmitting the instruction information, and managing a transaction occurring between the photo finishing laboratories and/or between the center server and each photo finishing laboratory, based on the record.

51. (new) The network photograph service method as defined in claim 49, wherein the center server storing includes storing a template, and making includes making the template accessible on the network, and the center server further comprises transmitting information regarding the template specified by the order information as a portion of the instruction information when a manipulated printing service using the template is requested by the instruction information, and

the laboratory server includes generating the manipulated print using the template, based on the instruction information.

52. (new) The network photograph service method as defined in claim 49, wherein the center server storing includes storing a template, and making includes making the template accessible on the network, and further comprises transmitting information regarding the template specified by the order information as a portion of the instruction information when a manipulated printing service using the template is requested by the instruction information, and


the laboratory server includes generating the manipulated print using the template, based on the instruction information.

53. (new) The network photograph service method as defined in claim 49, wherein said center server further comprises:

judging whether or not processing for the requested printing service requires special equipment when assigning the selected photo-finishing laboratory to output the order print, and, if the processing requires special equipment, said center server selecting a special photo-finishing laboratory to output the print, instead of the photo-finishing laboratory which stores the high resolution image data for outputting the ordered print.

54. The network photograph service method as defined in claim 53, further comprising:

transferring to the special photo-finishing laboratory information indicating the photo-finishing laboratory that is storing the high resolution image data for outputting the ordered print as order information.



55. (new) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer program logic stored therein for enabling a processor in a computer system to perform network photograph service processing, said computer program logic enabling the processor to:

provide a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories, each including a laboratory server which store picture images as high resolution image data,

install a single center server in a service center which receives a printing service via a network,

store a picture recorded by a customer as digital image data,

make the digital image data accessible on the network,

select one photo-finishing laboratory out of said plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to output a print in

response to order information transferred from the customer via the network, and

provide the printing service requested in the order by transmitting instruction information to the laboratory server installed in the selected photo-finishing laboratory, thereby enabling the customer to select a desired photo-finishing laboratory out of a choice of a plurality of photo-finishing laboratories to perform the printing service,

wherein the digital image data stored and made accessible by the center server is low resolution image data having a lower amount of data than that of the high resolution image data stored in the laboratory server of the selected photo-finishing laboratory, and

wherein the center server stores the digital image data in correlation with storage location information showing the laboratory server in which the image data is stored as high resolution image data, and selects, upon selection of the photo-finishing laboratory to output the image, the photo-finishing laboratory in which the laboratory server stores the high resolution image data of the picture image whose print has been ordered, based on the storage location information.

56. (new) The computer program product network as defined in claim 55, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

record the processing instructed to each laboratory server by transmitting the instruction information, and manage a transaction occurring between the photo finishing laboratories and/or between the center server and each photo finishing laboratory, based on the record.

57. (new) The computer program product network as defined in claim 55, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

store a template,

make the template accessible on the network,

transmit information regarding the template specified by the order information as a portion of the instruction information when a manipulated printing service using the template is requested by the instruction information, and

generate the manipulated print using the template, based on the instruction information.

58. (new) The computer program product network as defined in claim 55, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

store a template,

make the template accessible on the network,

transmit information regarding the template specified by the order information as a portion of the instruction information when a manipulated printing service using the template is requested by the instruction information, and

generate the manipulated print using the template, based on the instruction information.

59. (new) The computer program product network as defined in claim 55, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

judge whether or not processing for the requested printing service requires special equipment when assigning the selected photo-finishing laboratory to output the order print, and, if the processing requires special equipment, select a special photo-finishing laboratory to output the print, instead of the photo-finishing laboratory which stores the high resolution image data for outputting the ordered print.

60. (new) The computer program product network as defined in claim 59, said computer program logic further enabling the processor to:

See transfer to the special photo-finishing laboratory information indicating the photo-finishing laboratory that is storing the high resolution image data for outputting the ordered print as order information.
